aggressiveness and weediness, effect of the gene on non-target organisms, presence of protein in soil and its effect on soil micro-flora, confirmation of the absence of terminator gene and baseline susceptibility studies. The food and feed safety studies include assessment on composition analysis, allergenicity and toxicological studies and feeding studies on fish, chicken, cows and buffaloes. In case, the transgenic crop is not found suitable for release in the environment or human consumption, the product is rejected during the trial stage itself. A final view on the commercialization of GM plants is taken only when there is a clear economic and technical justification for release of the product.

(d) and (e) As the Ministry has received strong views both in favour and against commercialization of Bt brinjal in India from various stakeholders including the State Governments, farmers, civil societies, NGOs and scientists, the Ministry has decided to hold national consultations with the stakeholders before a final view on the commercialization of Bt. brinjal is taken.

Projects under Environmental Protection Act

†2645. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA :
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 6000 projects have been sanctioned till 2008 under the Environment Protection Act;

(b) if so, whether there is any system to monitor these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of people engaged for the purpose till the end of March, 2009; and

(d) the number of cases of violation of the relevant rules relating to the projects reported upto March, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Monitoring of projects is carried out through six Regional Offices of the Ministry of Environment & Forests located at Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Lucknow and Shillong. Targets and Action Plans are fixed every year and accordingly, field visits are made by the Scientists of Regional Offices. Based on the field visit reports, appropriate action is taken.

A total number of sixteen Scientists had been working for monitoring till the end of March, 2009 in the Regional Offices. In addition, State Pollution Control Boards and Central Pollution Control Board are also involved in the monitoring process.

(d) About 99 violation cases pertaining to the stipulated environmental conditions have been reported till March, 2009.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.